

Message Text

PAGE 01 MOGADI 00982 01 OF 03 130918Z
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05
EUR-08 NEA-07 PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SSM-01
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O R 130645Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4954
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
4.BMCONSUL DJIBOUTI 20
USUN NEW YORK 536

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 3 MOGADISCIO 982

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PROP, PINT, SO, UR, US
SUBJ: TEXT OF DEBORCHGRAVE INTERVIEW

REFS: A) MOGADISCIO 0949; B) MOGADISCIO 0976

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT DE BORCHGRAVE INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT MOHAMED
SIAD BARRE, PER REFTEL.

2. QUOTE...SOMALIA'S MARXIST PRESIDENT MOHAMED SIAD BARRE HAD NOT
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PAGE 02 MOGADI 00982 01 OF 03 130918Z

GRANTED AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO AN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT SINCE
THE BERBERA CRISIS IN 1974. LAST WEEK HE RECEIVED NEWSWEEK SENIOR
EDITOR ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE AT HIS HEADQUARTERS ADJOINING MOGADISHU
AIRPORT. EXCERPTS FROM THEIR THREE-HOUR CONVERSATION:

BROCHGRAVE -- SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT, THE SUDAN AND OTHERS, AND THE
WESTERN POWERS ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT SOVIET DESIGNS IN THE
AREA THAT IS IN A POSITION TO CONTROL THE FLOW OF OIL TO THE
WESTERN WORLD. DO YOU SHARE THESE CONCERNS?

PRESIDENT BARRE -- RUSSIA IS NOT DIFFERENT FROM OTHER MAJOR POWERS WHO ARE FOREIGNERS IN THE AREA PURSUING WHAT THEY PERCEIVE TO BE THEIR OWN INTERESTS. WHAT WE BELIEVE IS THAT THE OIL LANES MUST BE KEPT OPEN, FREE AND PEACEFUL. AND THE PEOPLE AROUND THESE SEAS MUST TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO INTERFERENCE BY EITHER SUPERPOWER. OUR INTEREST IS TO GUARANTEE A TWO-WAY FLOW OF OIL AND TRADE TO THE WESTERN WORLD.

BORCHGRAVE -- WHEN FIDEL CASTRO CAME TO SEE YOU IN MARCH HE PROPOSED A SOVIET-BACKED FEDERATION OF DJIBOUTI AND LIKE-MINDED MARXIST STATES -- ETHIOPIA, SOMALIA AND SOUTH YEMEN. YOU MET WITH CASTRO AND THE OTHER PRESIDENTS IN ADEN MARCH 16 AND REJECTED THESE PROPOSALS. SI WHAT WAS YOUR OBJECTION TO THIS PAX SOVIETICA IN THE REGION?

BARRE -- THAT'S NOT WHAT CASTRO PROPOSED. WE ARE MERELY TRYING TO FIND WAYS AND MEANS TO RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. AND HE FAILED BECAUSE OF MENGISTU'S RIGIDITY AND OBSTINACY. HE WON'T RECOGNIZE THE REALITY THAT THE ETHIOPIANS

ARE BLACK COLONIZERS AND THAT THEY MUST DECOLONIZE JUST AS SOUTHERN AFRICA MUST BE DECOLONIZED. MENGISTU TOOK OVER THE OLD ETHIOPIAN EMPIRE AS IT EXISTED UNDER THE EMPEROR AND IT WILL GO THE WAY OF ALL EMPIRES AND EVENTUALLY DISINTEGRATE AS THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN COLONIZED ACHIEVE THEIR FREEDOM. BUT MENGISTU IS CLINGING TO IMPERIAL STRUCTURE.

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PAGE 03 MOGADI 00982 01 OF 03 130918Z

BORCHGRAVE -- AFTER ADEN FAILED YOU WENT TO TAIZ (NORTH YEMEN) TO MEET WITH THE LEADERS OF THE SUDAN, NORTH AND SOUTH YEMEN, AND WHERE THE SAUDIS SUGGESTED AN ALTERNATIVE ALLIANCE WITH ARAB OIL FUNDING BEHIND IT. WHERE DO YOU STAND ON THIS ONE?

BARRE -- THERE WAS NO FORMAL PROPOSAL. BUT WE DID REACH A CONSENSUS THAT WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE THAT THE RED SEA REMAINS A SEA OF PEACE AND THAT THERE ARE NO FOREIGN MILITARY BASES IN THE AREA. IT MUST BE AN OPEN SEA FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC AND WE MUST BE ON OUR GUARD AGAINST ANYONE WITH OTHER MOTIVES.

BORCHGRAVE -- CASTRO, IN A RECENT INTERVIEW, CALLED ETHIOPIA'S FEBRUARY 3 MILITARY COUP -- THE DAOH COLONEL MENGISTU KILLED SEVEN LEADING MODERATE OFFICERS WITH HIS OWN HAND AT A COUNCIL MEETING -- THE FIRST TRULY MARXIST REVOLUTION IN AFRICA. SINCE THE DERG IS CONTINUING TO COMMIT ATROCITIES AGAINST THE CIVILIAN POPULATION, HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN CASTRO'S CHARACTERIZATION OF THE REGIME?

BARRE -- CASTRO WAS MISLED. HE DOESN'T KNOW AFRICA AND IS UNINFORMED ABOUT THE GRASSROOTS. AFTER ALL, THE ETHIOPIANS FOOLED THE U.S. FOR YEARS SO WHY SHOULDN'T CASTRO BE MISINFORMED AFTER A BRIEF VISIT. THE ETHIOPIAN REALITY IS QUITE DIFFERENT.

MENGISTU IS A SICK MIND WHO IS CONDUCTING BLOODTHIRSTY GENOCIDE.
ETHIOPIA IS NEITHER MARXIST NOR LENINIST, NEITHER SOCIALIST, NOR

DEMOCRATIC. THEY ONLY KNOW HOW TO KILL. THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE
A MILITARY VIEW BECAUSE ANY SENSIBLE MILITARY MAN WOULD KNOW THAT
HE CANNOT FIGHT FROM WEAKNESS ON SEVERAL FRONTS SIMULTANEOUSLY,
FROM ERITREA IN THE NORTH TO OGADEN IN THE SOUTH, AND WOULD KNOW
WHEN TO CUT HIS LOSSES. IT IS NOT A GENUINE REVOLUTION. WE ALSO
HAD A REVOLUTION BUT THERE WERE NO KILLINGS, ONLY REEDUCATION.
AND OUR FORMER LEADERS ARE UTIVBQ AND WORKING WITH US.

BORCHGRAVE -- AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG SAID CUBAN MILITARY ADVISERS
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PAGE 04 MOGADI 00982 01 OF 03 130918Z

MAY HELP STABILIZE ETHIOPIA. IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE
CUBANS WERE HELPING TRAIN AN ETHIOPIAN PEASANT ARMY OF 200,000
TO SEND NORTH TO FIGHT THE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT AND ETHIOPIA'S
DEMOCRATIC UNION GUERRILLAS. HOW DO YOU SEE THE CUBAN ROLE THERE?

BARRE - YOUNG IS ALSO MISINFORMED. IT IS WISHFUL THINKING ON
HIS PART AND I DON'T AGREE WITH HIM. YOU CANNOT STABILIZE ANARCHY
BY LENDING SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO ARE SUPPRESSING COLONIZED
PEOPLE STRUGGLING FOR THEIR FREEDOM. IT'S THE SAME AS HELPING
VOSTER OR SMITH.

BORCHGRAVE -- HOW MANY ARE REAL ETHIOPIANS AND HOW MANY DO YOU
RECKON HAVE BEEN COLONIZED OVER THE CENTURIES?

BARRE -- NO MORE THAN TWO MILLION OUT OF 30 MILLION ARE GENUINE
ETHIOPIANS. AS THE EMPIRE DISINTEGRATES, THE REST WILL WIN THEIR
FREEDOM.

BORCHGRAVE -- WHAT ARE THE CUBANS DOING IN SOMALIA? ARE THEY
STILL TRAINING YOUR PEOPLE'S MILITIA AND THE GUERRILLAS OF THE
WESTERN SOMALIAN LIBERATION FRONT?

BARRE -- THEY WERE NEVER INVOLVED WITH THE SOMALI FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00982 02 OF 03 131137Z
ACTION AF-04

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 3 MOGADISCIO 0982

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

IN OGADEN. A HANDFUL OF CUVANS HELPED US WITH OUR OWN MILITIA
BUT THEY HAVE NOW LEFT.

BORCHGRAVE--THE WEST SOMALIA LIBERATION FRONT IN OGADEN
RECENTLY CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THE SABOTAGE OF THE ADDIS-
DJIBOUTI RAIL LINE (WHICH CARRIES 80 PERCENT OF ETHIOPIA'S
FOREIGN TRADE). WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

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PAGE 02 MOGADI 00982 02 OF 03 131137Z

BARRE--WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TACTICS OF THESE SOMALI
NATIONALISTS FIGHTING FOR THEIR FREEDOM. WE ARE HELPING THEM
THE SAME WAY WE ARE HELPING FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN ZIMBABWE--
WITH LIMITED MEANS. BUT WE ARE NOT GOING TO INVADE ETHIOPIA.
THAT'S THE KIND OF NONSENSE YOU READ IN SENSATIONAL WESTERN
PAPERS.

BORCHGRAVE-- DO YOU NOT CONTROL ETHIOPIA'S OGADEN PROVINCE--
KNOWN BY YOU AS WEST SOMALIA AND WHICH COMPRISES ONE THIRD OF
ETHIOPIA'S TERRITORY?

BARRE -- THE ETHIOPIAN ARMY IS STILL NOMINALLY IN CONTROL BUT
THE FIGHTING IS SPREADING.

BORCHGRAVE -- OGADEN IS CLAIMED ON YOUR MAPS AS PART OF THE
SOMALI NATION. DO YOU PLAN TO ABSORB THE PROVINCE?

BARRE -- IT WILL BE UP TO THE LOCAL SOMALI POPULATION TO
DECIDE WHAT THEY WANT TO DO AFTER THEY HAVE ACHIEVED THEIR
FREEDOM. WE WILL NEVER FORCE THEM INTO ANYTHING.

BORCHGRAVE -- IS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN YOU AND ETHIOPIA OVER DJIBOUTI STILL POSSIBLE AND WHAT SHAPE SHOULD IT TAKE?

BARRE-- THIS IDEA COMES FROM THE SAME SICK BRAIN -- MENGISTU'S. DJIBOUTI WILL BE FREE AND INDEPENDENT AT THE END OF THIS MONTH. HOW CAN WE IMPOSE A COMPROMISE ON A NEW SOVEREIGN NATION? IT WILL BE UP TO THE PEOPLE OF DJIBOUTI TO DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE. WE WILL ACCEPT ANYTHING THEY DECIDE. THERE IS NO PRECEDENT UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW FOR TWO NATIONS TO IMPOSE A COMPROMISE ON A THIRD ONE.

BORCHGRAVE -- IF ETHIOPIA IS EVERYTHING YOU SAY IT IS, HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE LAUNCHED A MASSIVE MILITARY AID PROGRAM IN ETHIOPIA, SOMALIA'S ARCH RIVAL?

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PAGE 03 MOGADI 00982 02 OF 03 131137Z

BARRE -- IF THE MEGISTU REGIME WAS REALLY SOCIALIST AND PROGRESSIVE THERE WOULD BE NO REASON FOR NOT ASSISTING. THE SOVIETS WERE CALLED IN BY THE ETHIOPIANS AND THEY RESPONDED, JUST AS THE U.S. WOULD COME IF IT WERE CALLED BY A FRIEND IN NEED.

BORCHGRAVE -- I WOULDN'T BET ON THAT.

BARRE -- THE ETHIOPIANS WERE FREE TO CALL FOR AID. I AM TRYING TO BE OBJECTIVE AND DEVOID OF SENTIMENTALITY. IT WAS, OF COURSE, AGAINST OUR OWN INTERESTS BUT WE MUST ANALYZE CORRECTLY WHAT HAPPENED. IT IS A MATTER OF INTERESTS. WHEN THE U.S. WAS EVICTED FROM ETHIOPIA, A VACUUM WAS CREATED AND THE SOVIET UNION FILLED IT.

BORCHGRAVE -- BOTH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA CONSIDER THEMSELVES MARXIST-LENINIST STATES. DOES THIS MEAN THAT TERRITORY TRANSCENDS IDEOLOGY AND THAT NATIONALISM IS PROVING STRONGER THAN THE SPIRIT OF INTERNATIONAL MARXISM?

BARRE -- THE ETHIOPIAN REGIME HAS A FALSE INTERPRETATION OF INTERNATIONAL MARXISM. IT DOES NOT MEAN BEING OPPRESSORS AND MURDERERS. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SPIRIT IS COOPERATION AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. THEY ARE NOT PRACTISING THE PRINCIPLES OF MARXISM-LENINISM. THEY SOVIETS ARE OF COURSE HOPING THAT THEY WILL BECOME GOOD SOCIALISTS.

BORCHGRAVE -- DID MOSCOW EXPLAIN TO YOU IN ADVANCE WHAT THEY WERE PLANNING IN ETHIOPIA -- OR DID THEY SIMPLY INFORM YOU AFTER THE FACT?

BARRE -- BEFORE AND AFTER, WE TALKED. WE EXPRESSED OUR VIEW-POINT.

BORCHGRAVE -- DID GENERAL SAMANTAR, YOUR DEFENSE MINISTER,
RETURN FROM MOSCOW LAST WEEK WITH ANYTHING NEW? HAS RUSSIA OPTED
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PAGE 04 MOGADI 00982 02 OF 03 131137Z

FOR ETHIOPIA OR DOES IT SIMPLY WANT TO KEEP ONE FOOT IN BOTH
CAMPS TO PREVENT A WAR OVER DJIBOUTI BETWEEN TWO MARXIST STATES?

BARRE -- THAT'S A STATE SECRET. BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THERE WILL
BE NO CONFLICT BETWEEN SOMALIA AND THE SOVIETS. THEY SOVIETS
NEVER INTERFERE IN THE EXERCISE OF OUR SOVEREIGNTY AND BY THE
SAME TOKEN WE CANNOT INFLUENCE SOVIET POLICY. BUT IT'S NO
SECRET THAT WE DON'T SEE EYE TO EYE ON ETHIOPIA.

BORCHGRAVE -- DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT FOR RUSSIA
TO GAIN A FOOTHOLD IN CRUMBLING ETHIOPIA? IN THEIR GLOBAL VIEW
OF THINGS, WOULDN'T IT BE MORE IMPORTANT TO STAY CLOSE TO
SOMALIA WHICH SITS ASTRIDE THE MAIN OIL TANKER ROUTES?

BARRE -- THAT'S THEIR BUSINESS. ASK THEM. THEY HAVE A GLOBAL
VIEW AND CAN ANALYZE FOR THEMSELVES. THEY MAY BE CONFUSED BY
THE ELOQUENCE OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.

BORCHGRAVE -- HOW MUCH HARDWARE IS THE SOVIET UNION TURNING
OVER TO ETHIOPIA?

BARRE -- WE WERE NOT INFORMED ABOUT THE VOLUME.

BORCHGRAVE -- IF THE ELF SUCCEEDS IN BREAKING OFF ERITREA,
ETHIOPIA WOULD FIND ITSELF DEPRIVED OF ITS TWO PORTS ON THE
RED SEA. DOESN'T DJIBOUTI THEN BECOME EVEN MORE VITAL FOR
ETHIOPIA?

BARRE -- IT'S ETHIOPIA'S LINK WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND THAT'S
WHY WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO THE LEADERS OF DJIBOUTI THAT THEY MUST
BE ON GOOD TERMS WITH ETHIOPIA, AS THE FRENCH WERE BEFORE
INDEPENDENCE. WE MUCH USE OUR BRAINS AND WISDOM. REGARDLESS OF
WHAT HAPPENS IN ETHIOPIA WE CANNOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO PROMOTE
THE STRANGULATION OF AN AFRICAN COUNTRY. MENGISTU SAYS WE'RE
GOING TO INVADE DJIBOUTI. THAT'S RIDICULOUS.

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PAGE 05 MOGADI 00982 02 OF 03 131137Z

BORCHGRAVE -- WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO SOMALIA'S RAPPROCHEMENT WITH
SAUDI ARABIA?

BARRE -- WE HAVE ALWAYS ENJOYED CLOSE RELATIONS SINCE THE
FOUNDING OF THE SAUDI DYNASTY. BUT FROM 1974 ON THERE WAS SOME
CONFUSION CAUSED BY SENSATIONAL U.S. PROPAGANDA AGAINST US AND

THOSE NON-EXISTENT BASES WE HAD ALLEGEDLY GIVEN THE SOVIET UNION. DOUBTS WERE CREATED IN SAUDI MINDS ABOUT OUR MOTIVES. NOW THEY ARE AWARE OF THE REALITY. PRINCE SAUD, THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WAS HERE RECENTLY AND RELATIONS COULDN'T BE BETTER.

BORCHGRAVE -- DID THE SAUDIS SUGGEST AN ALTERNATIVE TO YOUR MILITARY LINKS WITH THE SOVIET UNION?

BARRE -- WE NEVER LIVE IN DREAMS AND HOPES. WE ARE SERIOUS PEOPLE AND WE ONLY LOOK AT CONCRETE PROPOSALS. WE DON'T DEAL IN GENERALITIES AND THAT'S ALL WE'VE HEARD. THE REST IS PURE PRESS SPECULATION.

BORCHGRAVE -- WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE, IN YOUR JUDGEMENT, FOR SAUDI

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00982 03 OF 03 131226Z
ACTION AF-04

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 3 OF 3 MOGADISCIO 0982

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

ARABIA TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE OF WESTERN HARDWARE?

BARRE -- THIS MATTER CAN ONLY BE DISCUSSED BY OUR POLITBURO AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE, NOT IN AN INTERVIEW. BUT WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ASSISTANCE WHEREVER IT COMES FROM.

BORCHGRAVE -- IS IT TRUE YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO CHANGE SUPPLIERS
BECAUSE OF A DANGEROUS GAP WHILE YOUR ARMED FORCES ABSORBED NEW
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PAGE 02 MOGADI 00982 03 OF 03 131226Z

EQUIPMENT?

BARRE-- WE SEE NO NO REASON TO CHANGE AND FORESEE NO TROUBLE WITH
THE SOVIET UNION. BUT BEFORE SOVIET HARDWARE CAME, WE HAD
WESTERN EQUIPMENT AND SEE NO PROBLEM IN RECONVERSION. TECHNICALLY,
IT WOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO HANDLE.

BORCHGRAVE -- GEN. SAMANTAR IS ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR CHINA.
WHAT CAN CHINA DO FOR YOU MILITARILY? SPARE PARTS FOR SOVIET
EQUIPMENT?

BARRE -- IF THAT NEED SHOULD COME, WHY NOT. WE ARE NOT THINKING
IN TERMS OF DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE. THAT WOULD BE WRONG THINKING.
BUT WE WOULD RATHER HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL POWERS AS THIS
WOULD REINFORCE OUR NON-ALIGNMENT POLICY.

BORCHGRAVE -- SPEAKING ABOUT THE OTHER SUPERPOWER, WHAT HAPPENED
AFTER PRESIDENT CARTER INSTRUCTED THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO GET
CLOSER TO SOMALIA? WAS WASHINGTON TALKING ABOUT ECONOMIC AID
ONLY?

BARRE -- WHEN I SAY WE ARE INTERESTED IN CLOSER RELATIONS WITH
THE U.S. WE ARE NOT BLUFFING. I MET ANDREW YOUNG IN ZANZIBAR
RECENTLY BUT THERE WAS NO SUBSTANCE, JUST SUPERFICIAL GENERALITIES.
SO I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT PRESIDENT CARTER MEANS. WE HAVE
BEEN THROUGH THIS EXERCISE BEFORE. THERE IS A LONG HISTORY OF
MISUNDERSTANDINGS. IN 1969, THE U.S. BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION
THAT THE SOMALI FLAG OF CONVENIENCE WAS BEING USED BY SHIPS
TAKING WAR SUPPLIES TO HAIPHONG. WE THEN CALLED A MINISTERIAL
MEETING AND DECIDED TO ABOLISH THE SOMALI FLAG PRIVILEGE.
BEFORE WE ANNOUNCED THE DECREE, THE U.S. AMBASSADOR DELIVERED
AN ULTIMATUM -- EITHER WE ABOLISH OUR FLAG OF CONVENIENCE OR
WE LOSE ALL FORMS OF COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE WITH THE U.
S. WE REJECTED THE ULTIMATUM AND THEN RESCINDED OUR OWN DECISION
ON THE FLAG. I KNEW THIS WAS WRONG BUT WE COULD NOT BOW TO
SUCH NAKED PRESSURE. I WROTE TO WASHINGTON MANY TIMES AND INVITED
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PAGE 03 MOGADI 00982 03 OF 03 131226Z

MANY PERSONALITIES TO VISIT US. WE HAD NO INTEREST IN QUARRELING
WITH YOU. BUT YOUR HOSTILE LINE CONTINUED. SO WE COOLED IT AND
DECIDED THAT TIME WOULD HEAL MATTERS. WHEN I MET PRESIDENT FORD
IN 1974 I SUGGESTED WE NORMALIZE RELATIONS. HE STRUCK ME AS A
GOOD MAN, VERY SINCERE WHO MEANT WHAT HE SAID AND SAID WHAT HE
MEANT. HE SAID HE WOULD REVIEW THE SITUATION. WE NEVER HEARD

ANYTHING UNTIL THE BERBERA CAMPAIGN WAS SUDDENLY UNLEASHED AGAINST US TWO MONTHS LATER BY THE THEN DEFENSE SECRETARY, JAMES SCHLESINGER. IT WAS A DELIBERATE CAMPAIGN TO POISON OUR RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AS WELL AS SABOTAGE A POSSIBLE RAPPROCHEMENT WITH AMERICA. ANOTHER WATERGATE.

BORCHGRAVE -- ARE YOU NOW INTERESTED IN U.S. MILITARY AID?

BARRE -- WE HAVE NO PROPOSALS BEFORE US. IT WOULD DEPEND ON CIRCUMSTANCES. WHAT WE NOW RECEIVE FROM THE SOVIET UNION IS SUFFICIENT.

BORCHGRAVE -- IS SOMALIA PLANNING A JOINT VENTURE WITH THE WESTINGHOUSE CORP. TO EXPLOIT WHAT MAY BE A LARGE URANIUM DEPOSIT?

BARRE -- IT MUST BE FURTHER DISCUSSED WITH THE MINISTRY OF MINERALS. WHEN A REPORT IS MADE, ITS RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE EXAMINED BY RESPONSIBLE BODIES OF COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP. I CANNOT VOICE AN INDIVIDUAL OPINION EXCEPT TO SAY THAT IT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION AND THAT I DON'T WISH TO PREJUDICE THE FINAL DECISION.

BORCHGRAVE -- YOU HAVE REPEATEDLY DECLARED THAT SOMALIA IS NON-ALIGNED, SO WHY IS IT THAT NO OTHER NAVAL FORCE OR MILITARY AIRCRAFT HAS ENJOYED THE SAME FACILITIES YOU HAVE GRANTED THE SOVIET UNION IN BERBERA?

BARRE -- THAT'S NOT CORRECT. FRENCH, ITALIAN AND PAKISTANI NAVAL VESSELS HAVE PAID VISITS. U.S. SHIPS WOULD ALSO BE WELCOME IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 04 MOGADI 00982 03 OF 03 131226Z

THEY ARE FRIENDLY VISITORS, NOT BOSSES.

BORCHGRAVE -- THE ELF IS NOW RECEIVING AID FROM SAUDI ARABIA, THE GULF STATES AND THE SUDAN AGAINST THE ETHIOPIAN REGIME SUPPORTED BY RUSSIA. DOESN'T THAT PUT YOU ON THE SAME SIDE AGAINST ETHIOPIA?

BARRE -- WE WILL ALWAYS BE ON THE SIDE OF THOSE FIGHTING FOR THEIR FREEDOM. THEY DESERVE ALL THE ASSISTANCE THEY CAN GET.

BORCHGRAVE -- THE SOVIET UNION IS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN SOME TEN AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND IS NOW SHIPPING -- ACCORDING TO TESTIMONY FROM THE NEW U.S. DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY DUNCAN -- MORE MILITARY HARDWARE TO AFRICA, BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE SAHARA, THAN THE U.S., BRITAIN AND FRANCE COMBINED. IF THE U.S. WERE SIMILARLY ENGAGED IN AFRICA, IT WOULD BE DENOUNCED AS IMPERIALIST INTERVENTION. WHY IS THIS NOT THE CASE WITH THE SOVIET UNION?

BARRE -- HOW CAN I BELIEVE WHAT YOUR OFFICIALS SAY SINCE THEY HAVE JEOPARDIZED THEIR CREDIBILITY IN THE PAST. BUT IF YOU DO THE SAME AS THE U.S.S.R. , I CAN ASSURE YOU YOU WON'T BE ACCUSED OF IMPERIALISM. THEY OFFER ONLY ASSISTANCE. IF YOU SUPPORT OPPRESSORS, THAT'S QUITE DIFFERENT.

BORCHGRAVE -- MICHAEL BLUMENTHAL, OUR NEW TREASURY SECRETARY, TOLD ME THE FIRST PRIORITY IN DEALING WITH THIRD WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IS FOR THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO FORGO ALL THEIR SOLGANS ABOUT WESTERN IMPERIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM AND OTHER OBSOLETE CLICHES AND THEN SHED THEIR INHIBITIONS ABOUT USING CLEVERLY THE VAST POTENTIAL OF MULTIOATIONAL CORPORATIONS AS THE WORLD'S PRIME AGENTS FOR RAPID ECONOMIC CHANGE. IN OTHER WORDS, HARNESS WESTERN TECHNOLOGY AND PETRODOLLARS TO THE NEEDS OF THE DEVELOPMENT WORLD. BUT SOMALIA STILL LIKES THE SHIPWORN SLOGANS. WHY?

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PAGE 05 MOGADI 00982 03 OF 03 131226Z

BARRE -- IN SOME RESPECTS, BLUMENTHAL IS RIGHT AND IN OTHERS HE'S WRONG.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH I CAN BELIEVE ABOUT MULTINATIONALS. WHAT THEY HAVE DONE IS SOMETIMES VERY BAD. WE PREFER DIRECT STATE TO STATE ASSISTANCCE WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED. WE MUST AVOID DOLLAR CORRUPTION. AMERICAN LOST ITS GLOBAL PRESTIGE BY DEFENDING INDIVIDUALS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE MASSES. WE ALL LOOKED TO AMERICA AS THE HOME OF FREEDOM. AND THEN WE SAW HOW YOU PROPPED UP THE ETHIOPIAN EMPIRE, VIETNAM, THE PROTECTION OF SOUTH AFRICA, ISRAELI AGGRESSION AND SO FORTH. WE ALSO SAW THE U. S. PULLING OUT OF COUNTRIES AFTER THE FALL OF ONE INDIVIDUAL. THAT'S WHY THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN SO NEGATIVE AFTER YOU DID SO MUCH FOR THE WORLD. YOU TALK TOO MUCH ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE DONE. RUSSIA HAS GIVEN US BILLONS AND NEVER BRAGGED ABOUT IT. YOU SON'T EVEN FIND PROPAGANDA ABOUT IT ON THE BILLBOARD IN FRONT OF THEIR EMBASSY. I AM NOT ANTI-AMERICAN. JUST GIVING YOU FRIENDLY ADVICE ON HOW TO GET GOOD RELATIONS BACK ON TRACK. UNQUOTE

3. SEE PARA 4 REFTEL (B) RE CONFIDENTIALITY DEBORCHGRAVE/
AMBASSADOR CONTACTS.

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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197706110/baaaeuxg.tel
Line Count: 535
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: af209e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 10
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: A) MOGADISCIO 0949; B) MOGADISCIO 0976
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2013553
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TEXT OF DEBORCHGRAVE INTERVIEW
TAGS: PROP, PINT, SOPN, SO, UR, US, (DEBORCHGRAVE, ARNAUD), (MOHAMED SIAD BARRE)
To: STATE INFO ADDIS ABABA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/af209e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009